

C. Remarks

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 23, 2003 (Paper No. 6). Claims 2, 4, 6-8 and 14-16 have been cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and without conceding the correctness of the rejections thereof. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 9-13 remain in the application, of which claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, as to a formal matter, the Office Action indicated that a copy of one item on the Information Disclosure Statement dated July 12, 2001 was not included. After further study, Applicants assert that this one item was cited inadvertently and can be disregarded.

Claims 1-8 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,420,834 (Yamazaki). Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamazaki. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamazaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,001,413 (Matsuura). Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamazaki in view of Matsuura, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,187,151 (Leiphart). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is a method for making an organic luminescent device. The method for making an organic luminescent device comprises the steps of forming an anode, forming an organic layer of hole transport compound on the anode, and forming a cathode above the organic layer. Importantly, the organic layer is formed using an evaporated hole transport compound while applying a positive DC voltage to the anode without generating plasma.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent claim 1. In particular, Yamazaki is not seen to disclose or reasonably to suggest the formation of an organic layer of hole transport compound on an anode, where the organic layer is formed using an evaporated hole transport compound while applying a positive DC voltage to the anode without generating plasma. Instead, Yamazaki is directed to a method of making a light emitting device which necessarily includes the step of charging EL material which is to be deposited on an electrode. In its various embodiments, Yamazaki exemplifies charging EL material with either positive or negative charge.

This is very different from the present invention in which a positive DC voltage is applied to the anode, as opposed to directly charging the deposition material as in Yamazaki. In fact, according to the present invention, the evaporated hole transport material typically is non-charged; occasionally it may take on a positive charge by virtue of its landing on a positively charged anode (due to electron withdrawal), but the evaporated material should not be negatively charged according to this invention.

If the hole transport material were negatively charged, as is possible in Yamazaki, then the positive charge on the anode would effectively cancel the charge of the hole transport material; such a neutral surface would then act as an insulator between the anode with a positive DC voltage applied thereto and later-applied negatively-charged hole transport material. Such an arrangement would deter successive formation, i.e., thickening, of the organic layer on the anode.

Instead, in the present invention, evaporated hole transport compound is solidified on the anode. Such solidified hole transport compound is positively charged due to electron withdrawal by the positively charged anode. Hole transport material can then be successively deposited on the solidified hole transport compound and tightly held due to

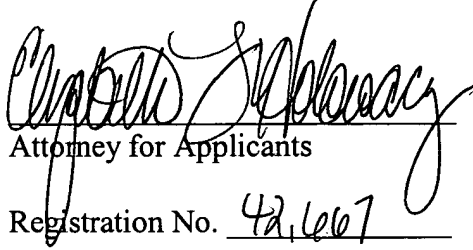
the successive electron withdrawal effected by the positively charged anode and solidified hole transport material.

Yamazaki simply provides no guidance in achieving the method of the present invention. Yamazaki teaches negatively or positively charging EL material directly; the present invention requires the application of a positive DC voltage to an anode. None of the secondarily cited references remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Yamazaki. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the prior art rejections.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claim 1 is believed to be allowable. The other rejected claims in the application are each dependent on this independent claim and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reason. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage to issue of the present case is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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